

Chapter 1561

Kylie stood frozen, her body tense with fear and sweat beading on her brow as she saw the black silk ribbon coming toward her neck. Desperate, she tried to talk her way out of it, her voice shaking.

"N-no, it's not too late. His Majesty loves Connor dearly. He wouldn't let him be without a mother. I must care for him myself. No one can take away my right to be his mother!" 2

She paused, gasping for breath before adding, "And Lady Carissa once said... she said that Connor loves me. Those were his words. He's wounded, alone, and heading to Eldermere Keep. He can't go without me. I must go to him!"

As the silk wrapped around her neck, Kylie cried out sharply, "Your Majesty, you can't do this! What have I done wrong? Lady Grace tried to kill Connor and wasn't sentenced to death, yet you're going to execute me just because I've been foolish? I've hurt no one!" 1

Derek paused momentarily. There were things he wasn't supposed to say, but thinking of the injured Connor stirred his compassion. He couldn't help himself.

"How haven't you hurt anyone?" Derek said, his voice quiet but firm. "Don't forget Lady Jeanette's baby. And look at what happened to Prince Connor. You're just as guilty as Lady Grace."

Kylie's eyes widened. She gripped the silk tightly, as though trying to tear it off. "That's nonsense!"

"It's not nonsense, and you know it," Derek replied, his voice harder now. "Why do you think Lady Grace took such a bold risk? It's because

she found out that you and Lady Sylvia plotted against Lady Jeanette. She could have leaked the truth over time and in stages, but you made it easier for her when you stormed into Laurel Palace like a fool. You played right into her hands. Once she had the perfect scapegoat, she didn't hesitate to strike."

Kylie gasped, her face pale. "Even if I was wrong, I don't deserve this. Unlike her, I've done nothing unforgivable!"


"That's why His Majesty will make sure Lady Grace doesn't die an easy death," Derek assured.

"But I don't deserve to die," Kylie protested, her voice growing louder and more desperate. "Even if it was wrong to harm Lady Jeanette's unborn child, I am the queen, the king's rightful wife! I gave birth to and raised the eldest prince! His Majesty can't treat me like this—"

As the silk ribbon tightened even more around the queen's neck, her words were cut off, leaving her unable to speak.

Derek didn't want to say anything else. He knew it was pointless; Kylie would never feel any remorse.

Things were currently unfolding as per Salvador's command.

Because Kylie had refused to go to Eldermere Keep to care for Connor despite learning that he was still alive, she would no longer be allowed to live. Salvador had said that she was an unkind mother, an ungrateful daughter, and a careless wife who didn't think of the kingdom. Since that was the case, it would be better for her to die. 

Derek acted swiftly and decisively, sparing Kylie any prolonged suffering.

The next day, news spread that the queen had fallen seriously ill. It was

said that the shock of Connor's sudden death had left her heartbroken. She couldn't eat or sleep, leading to a mental collapse which left her bedridden. Members of the Quinton family sent a request to visit her, but it was denied. 1

Three days later, the bells tolled, signaling that Kylie had passed away.

First, Sylvia, and now Kylie. Soon after, news spread that Grace was also gravely ill. The court was full of whispers and suspicion, but matters of the harem were beyond their reach. If the official word was illness, then illness it would be.

Still, no one found Kylie's decline surprising. She had always doted on Connor, so his death was surely a devastating blow.

As for Caden, he had been sent away as well. The court officials had already heard whispers that the shock had left him witless. Now, he was sent to a monastery to recover in peace. With the divine blessings, perhaps he might regain his senses—though no one could say for certain.

Among Salvador's three sons, only Cecil remained in the palace. There was no longer any doubt about who would become the heir to the throne. 1

After Kylie's funeral, Salvador officially named Cecil as crown prince. From that day forward, the king took his son with him to court each morning, and after the session, he would let the prince rest before studying with Trevor in the study. 1

Rafael continued to teach martial arts in the evenings, though now only Cecil and Ryan remained of the four children. The lessons were shorter, lasting only an hour. Afterward, Cecil would join Salvador in the study to review official reports.

Once lively and full of energy, Cecil had now grown quiet and composed. He was so serious that people often forgot how young he still was.



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